

HENRY SLAUGHTER.

APRIL 1, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 2725.]

Your Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2725) entitled "A bill granting increase of pension to Henry Slaughter," beg leave to submit the following report, and recommend that said bill do pass without amendment.

Henry Slaughter enlisted June 7, 1861, as private Company A, Fourteenth Indiana Infantry Volunteers, and was honorably discharged therefrom June 16, 1864. He reenlisted as private Company A, Fourth United States Artillery, October 7, 1864, and was honorably discharged as sergeant October 6, 1867, having faithfully served six years and ten days.

His left arm was fractured below elbow by a gunshot wound received in battle at Antietam, Md., September 17, 1862, and received another gunshot wound on same day in same battle, the ball passing through left testicle, injuring prostate gland, and passing out under the gluteal folds of left thigh. At the battle of the Wilderness, Virginia, May 5, 1864, he received a gunshot wound of left hand, ball passing through base of second finger, and necessitating amputation at metacarpal phalangeal joint; and on same day received another gunshot wound of left arm, ball entering anterior surface at lower third, passing backward and upward, injuring both bones of forearm, and making exit at posterior surface, 2 inches above the entrance.

He filed claim for pension July 26, 1864, and his claim was allowed February 16, 1872, at \$6 per month from June 17, 1864, deducting period of subsequent service. His pension was increased to \$10 from April 24, 1876, and to \$12 from February 24, 1886, for gunshot wounds of left arm, hand, and testicle, at which rate he is now pensioned.

He was rated \$14 per month by the board of examining surgeons at Effingham, Ill., March 17, 1875, for these wounds, and nine boards which examined him at intervals since, all rate him not less than \$14, while the board at Vandalia, Ill., March 20, 1889, rated him at \$15; the board at Greenville, rated him at \$18, June 22, 1892, and the board at Brazil, Ind., said May 2, 1894:"

Claimant is badly crippled because of these wounds and unable to do any kind of manual labor requiring the use of both hands.

The Pension Bureau gives no reason for rejecting nine increase claims during this period, wherein he is shown to have been clearly entitled to same, except the arbitrary dictum of the medical referee of "no increase."

Your committee believe the bill is meritorious and the claimant clearly entitled, and therefore earnestly recommend the passage of the bill.